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 Session

SUBJECT: ECOND SESSION - LOS CONFERENCE
 1. THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE THIRD LAW OF THE SEA
 CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO END ON MAY 7. IT IS NOT
 EXPECTED THAT THE CURRENT SESSION WILL COMPLETE A TREATY
 BY THAT DATE. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, AS
 RECENTLY ENUNCIATED BY THE PRESIDENT, TO MAKE EVERY
 EFFORT TO CONCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR,
 ACCORDINGLY THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT A SECOND
 NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS SUMMER IS ESSENTIAL IF THE CON-
 FERENCE IS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF A WIDELY ACCEP-
 TABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.
 2. AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES ARE REQUESTED AT THE EARLIEST
 POSSIBLE TIME TO MAKE A DEMARCHE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER
 OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO URGE THAT THE LOS
 DELEGATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRIES BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT
 THE HOLDING OF AN ADDITIONAL LOS CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER
 TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ISSUE OF AN
 ADDITIONAL 1976 CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED
 SOON AT THE NEW YORK SESSION, SINCE THE PRESENT SESSION
 ENDS ON MAY 7. IN MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE YOU SHOULD DRAW
 ON THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 STATEMENT, AS WELL AS ON THE
 GUIDANCE IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW.
 3. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:
 - THE CONFERENCE WAS AUTHORIZED BY UNGA RESOLUTION TO
 TAKE A DECISION TO CONVENE A SECOND SESSION IN 1976.
 - SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MANY KEY PRO-
 BLEMS AND MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED.
 - IN THE ABSENCE OF A SECOND SESSION, EXISTING PRESSURES
 WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED FOR UNILATERAL ACTION (WHICH

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WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE CHANCES FOR ULTIMATE AGREEMENT OR PUT AGREEMENT BEYOND REACH).

- THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE DEMONSTRATED A DEEP INTEREST IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY TO LEAD THE US DELEGATION TO A SUMMER SESSION. IN THIS REGARD, THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY SAID, "THE NEED FOR A TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS EVEN MORE PRESSING TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. I HAVE DIRECTED OUR NEGOTIATORS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT, CONSISTENT WITH OUR BASIC INTERESTS, TO CONCLUDE THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR." THE SECRETARY, IN HIS APRIL 8 SPEECH, STATED, "THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT IF THE PRESENT SESSION DOES NOT COMPLETE ITS WORK, ANOTHER -- AND FINAL -- SESSION SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED THIS SUMMER."

- A SESSION OF 6-8 WEEKS COMMENCING PERHAPS IN MID-JULY IN GENEVA COULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE PROVIDING A SUFFICIENT PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN SESSIONS FOR MEANINGFUL REVIEW OF THIS SESSION'S WORK AND PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT SESSION.

4. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS SOONEST. SISCO

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